UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2000/97/Add.1
9 March 2000

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-sixth session
Item 17 (c) of the provisional agenda

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Towards a culture of peace

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights submitted in accordance with Commission resolution 1999/62

Addendum

Comments submitted by Governments

GE.00-11536 (E)

Thailand

1. The Government of Thailand indicated that a National Committee was being established within the Ministry of Education, designated as the principle agency to celebrate the observation of the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace.

Mexico

2. The promotion and protection of human rights are the key elements of a culture of peace and constitute a priority for the Government of Mexico as reflected in the National Development Plan 1995-2000, which states that "the rule of law is inconceivable without full respect for human rights".

3. Measures have been taken in a number of priority areas, including the administration of justice, action to combat torture, the strengthening of the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) and the protection of the human rights of women, indigenous peoples and children, as a basic means of developing a culture of respect for human rights. The promotional activities of the National Programme for the Promotion and Strengthening of Human Rights, presented on 21 December 1998, are organized through the media, training courses for civil servants and education curricula.

4. Reference was also made to Mexico's national human rights institution system as the largest in the world, comprising CNDH, with an independent legal status and budget, and 32 State commissions. Since May 1997, CNDH has organized a series of human rights training courses, in cooperation with various departments, for civil servants, federal and State prosecution staff, law-enforcement officials, the armed forces, prison staff and the National Migration Institute.

5. Human rights are incorporated in education curricula at all levels: primary, secondary and higher education, public and private universities. For diplomatic, military and military justice studies, human rights are part of the graduate and post-graduate courses. In 1999, a guide for human rights teaching at the pre-school level was published by CNDH, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. Lectures, seminars and forums are also organized at the national level, in cooperation with the Ministry of National Defence, for the armed forces, the Naval Justice Department, government agencies and non-governmental organizations with a view to promoting a culture of human rights.